



TOWN OF IPSWICH

IPSWICH, MASSACHUSETTS 01938

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Agricultural Commission minutes. May 4, 2016

Members attending: Jay Stanbury, Eric Galicki, Cathy Chadwick, Royce Knowlton, Cole Desmond, and Christine Sandulli (alternate)

Non-members present: Amie Charland, Jane Roudy, Eric Josephson, Beth O'Connor

The meeting was convened at 7:04 p.m.

Citizen's Queries: None

Minutes: The minutes of the April meeting were approved.

Residential kitchens: Jay Stanbury, Cathy Chadwick and Amie Charland met with Health Agent Colleen Feron on the issue of residential kitchens for retail sales.

The Board of Health favors promoting agriculture in Ipswich and will consider removing the regulation requiring a local permit, as well as another concerning grease traps. The Board of Health will meet to consider the issue on May 9 at 5:30. Stanbury urged Ag Comm members to attend that meeting.

Omnibus Agricultural Bill: Stanbury said he had drafted a letter supporting the Omnibus Agricultural Bill. After the letter has been reviewed by the Agricultural Commission. Stanbury will send it to House Speaker Robert DeLeo.

Farmers market: Amie Charland reported on the Farmers Market.

- Survey results on the Farmers Market indicated a negative reaction to a weekday evening. Charland researched other markets and determined a Saturday date would not put Ipswich in competition with other markets for vendors. A Saturday market could benefit from beach traffic and could be a stop for the Ipswich Explorer bus. CATA, which runs the bus, could add the stop by request. Charland elaborated that the survey had gone both to vendors and customers, but she did not know how many respondents were farmers.
- Charland said the market currently has two farm vendors, one from Ipswich and one from Rowley, and was waiting to hear from a couple more.
- Three Sisters will do SNAP for other vendors, although staffing on Saturdays may be difficult. Charland said the market could take over SNAP, although would need training.
- Charland is planning to establish a farmers market advisory committee, and is investigating procedures for establishing it.
- Chadwick asked Charland to supply postcards publicizing the market, and the commission can help distribute them.

MOTION: Royce Knowlton moved the commission accept the report. Unanimously approved.

Banner: Stanbury presented a draft banner to be hung over Route 1A. Preferred language was "Ipswich Agriculture – Buy local, Buy fresh" Beth O'Connor agreed to send the commission an inventory of what promotional material remaining from last year.

MOTION: A motion to authorize \$1000 for the banner and other promotional material was unanimously approved.

Three sisters: Three sisters will not participate in the Farmers Market this year. Their CSA has enlarged from 90 to 150 shares and has 30 left to sell. They will donate excess produce to Open Door and Accord food pantries. They now have a new greenhouse, as well as a distribution barn, watering system for the fields, and a walk-in cooler. They are planning a seedling sale in May.

Town meeting article:

MOTION: Eric Galicki moved that the commission oppose a Town Meeting article that would restrict home firing ranges and require that anyone hunting on town-owned land acquire permission from the town. Sandulli said the commission needed more input on the reasons behind the article before making a decision, but the full members said they were ready to vote. The motion was approved, and Galicki will speak in opposition to the motion at town meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.